

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated March 19, 2009 and received in this application. In the amendment, claims 2, 6, 10, 11, 13, 17, 18, 20, 22 and 24 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 5, 9, 12, 19, 21 and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 16 has been amended to offer proper dependency. These amendments add no new matter. Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10, 11, 13-18, 20, 22 and 24 remain pending in the application. Applicant respectfully requests early and favorable action regarding the pending claims.

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 2-4, 6-8, 10, 11, 13-15, 17, 18, 20, 22 and 24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2, 6, 10, 11, 13, 17, 18, 20, 22 and 24 have been rewritten in independent form accordingly, and are the only independent claims remaining in the application. Accordingly, all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

All grounds of rejection in the Action are believed to be moot, and Applicant respectfully requests that they be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing arguments, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. If any further issues remain, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve them.

This response is believed to be a complete response to the Office Action. However, Applicant reserves the right to set forth further arguments supporting the patentability of the claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers. Further, for any instances in which the Examiner took Official Notice in the Office Action, Applicant expressly does not acquiesce to the taking of Official Notice, and respectfully requests that the Examiner provide an affidavit to support the Official Notice taken in the next Office Action, as required by 37 CFR 1.104(d)(2) and MPEP § 2144.03.

Dated: May 28, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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